

Guidance for Industry

EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTHELMINTICS: Specific Recommendations for Porcine VICH GL16

DRAFT GUIDANCE

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This draft guidance is intended to standardize and simplify methods used in the evaluation of new anthelmintics submitted for approval to the European Union, Japan, and the United States.

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VICH GL16 (ANTHELMINTICS: PORCINE)

EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTHELMINTICS: SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PORCINE

Recommended for Consultation
at Step 4 of the VICH Process
on November 1998
by the VICH Steering Committee

THIS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE APPROPRIATE VICH EXPERT WORKING GROUP AND IS SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION BY THE PARTIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VICH PROCESS. AT STEP 7 OF THE PROCESS THE FINAL DRAFT WILL BE RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION TO THE REGULATORY BODIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, JAPAN AND USA.

EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTHELMINTICS: SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PORCINE

**Endorsed by the VICH Steering Committee at Step 4 of the VICH Process
at its meeting on 18-20 May 1999**

Introduction

These guidances for Porcine were developed by the Working Group established by the Veterinary International Cooperation on Harmonization (VICH), Anthelmintic Guidances. They should be read in conjunction with the VICH Effectiveness of Anthelmintics: General Recommendations (EAGR) which should be referred to for discussion of broad aspects for providing pivotal data to demonstrate product anthelmintic effectiveness. The present document is structured similarly to the EAGR with the aim of simplicity for readers comparing both documents.

The guidance for Porcine are part of this EAGR and the aim is (1) to be more specific for certain specific issues for Porcine not discussed in the overall guidances; (2) to highlight differences with the EAGR on effectiveness data recommendations and (3) to give explanations for disparities with the EAGR.

It is also important to note that technical procedures to be followed in the studies are not the aim of this guidance. We recommend to the sponsors to refer to the pertinent procedures described in details in other published document e.g WAAVP Guidances for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Anthelmintics in Porcine. *Veterinary Parasitology* 21 : 69 - 82, 1986.

A. General Elements

1 - The Evaluation of Effectiveness Data

Only controlled tests are recommended both for the dose determination and dose confirmation studies. Critical tests are generally considered not to be very reliable for Porcine.

Long-acting or sustained-release products should be subject to the same evaluation procedures as other therapeutic anthelmintics. Adequate parasite infection should be defined in the protocol according to regional prevalence or historic and/or statistical data.

2 - Use of Natural or Induced Infections

Dose determination studies generally should be conducted using induced infections with either laboratory or recent field isolates.

Dose confirmation studies should be conducted using naturally infected animals. Induced infections with recent field isolates are also acceptable, as well as natural infections which can have superimposed induced infections of certain parasites. This procedure will allow a wide range of parasites. For claims against 4th stage larvae, induced infections should be used.

Persistent efficacy studies should be conducted using induced infections with recent field isolates.

The history of the parasites used in the induced infection studies should be included in the final report.

3 - Number of Infective Parasitic Forms Recommended for Induced Infections.

The number to be used is approximate and will depend of the isolate that is used. The final number of larvae or eggs used in the infection should be included in the final report. Table 1 shows numbers recommended.

Table 1 - Numbers of viable L3 or eggs used to produce adequate infections in Porcine for anthelmintic evaluation

Parasites	VICH
Stomach	
<i>Ascarops strongylina</i>	200
<i>Hyostrogylus rubidus</i>	1,000 – 4,000
<i>Physocephalus sexalatus</i>	500
Intestines	
<i>Ascaris suum</i>	500 – 2,500
<i>Oesophagostomum</i> spp.	5,000 - 20,000
<i>Strongyloides ransomi</i>	1,500 – 5,000
<i>Trichuris suis</i>	1,000 – 5,000
Lungs	
<i>Metastrongylus</i> spp.	1,000 – 2,500
Kidney	
<i>Stephanurus dentatus</i>	1,000 – 2,000

4 - Recommendations for the Calculation of Effectiveness

4.1 Criteria to Grant a Claim

To be granted a claim the following pivotal data should be included:

- Two dose confirmation studies conducted with a minimum of 6 adequately infected non-medicated animals (control group) and 6 adequately infected medicated animals (treated group) in each study;
- The differences in parasite counts between treated and control animals should be statistically significant ($p < 0.05$);
- Effectiveness should be 90% or higher calculated using transformed (geometric means) data;
- The infection of the animals in the study will be deemed adequate based on historical, parasitological and/or statistical criteria.

4.2 Number of Animals (Dose Determination, Dose Confirmation and Persistency Studies)

The minimum number of animals used per experimental group is a critical point. Although the number of animals will depend on the possibility to process the data statistically according to adequate statistical analysis, it has been recommended, to achieve harmonisation, that the inclusion of at least 6 animals in each experimental group is a minimum.

In cases where there are several studies, none of which have 6 adequately infected animals in the control group (for example, important rare parasites), the results obtained could be pooled to accumulate 12 animals in the studies; and statistical significance calculated. If the difference are significant ($p < 0.05$), effectiveness may be calculated and if the infection is deemed adequate, the claim may be granted. Sampling techniques and estimation of worm burden should be similar among laboratories involved in the studies to allow adequate and meaningful extrapolation of the results to the population.

4.3 Adequacy of Infection

With respect to the minimum adequate number of helminths, the decision will be made when the final report is submitted based on statistical and historical data, literature review, or expert testimony.

The range of Porcine helminths (adults) that has been considered adequate to grant a claim will vary according to the species. Generally the minimal mean number of nematodes considered to be adequate is 100. Lower mean counts are to be expected with *Ascaris suum*, *Ascarops strongylina*, *Stephanurus dentatus* and *Metastrongylus* spp. For *Fasciola* spp. minimal mean counts of 20 adults may be considered adequate.

4.4 Label Claims: The term immature on the labeling is not acceptable. For adult claims as a general rule the treatment should not be administered earlier than 35 days for *Ascarops strongylina*, 26 days for *Hyostrongylus rubidus*, 55 days for *Physocephalus sexalatus*, 65 days for *Ascaris suum*, 10 days for *Strongyloides ransomi*, 45 days for *Oesophagostomum dentatum*, 21 days for *O. quadrispinulatum*, 50 days for *Trichuris suis*, 35 days for *Metastrongylus* spp. and 10 months for *Stephanurus dentatus*. For L4 claims treatments should be given as general rule 7 to 9 days after infection with exceptions: 3 to 4 days for *S. ransomi* 11 to 15 days for *A. suum*, and 16 to 20 days for *T. suis*.

For claims against somatic larvae of *S. ransomi* natural or artificially infected pregnant sows should be treated at various times prior to parturition and the effectiveness checked by counting the larvae in the sow milk and the worms in the small intestine of the litter.

5. Treatment Procedures

5.1 Product Type. The method of administration (oral, parenteral etc), formulation and extent of activity of a product will influence the protocol design. Slow-release products should be tested over the entire proposed effective time unless additional information suggest that this is unnecessary e.g. for systemically acting compounds blood levels demonstrate steady state at all points of the proposed therapeutic period.

5.2 Treatment Route. When the drug is to be administered in the water or via a premix, it should be done following the labeling recommendations. Palatability studies may be required for medicated feed. Samples of medicated water or feed should be collected to confirm drug concentration. The amount of medicated product consumed to each animal or group of animals should be recorded to ensure that the treatment satisfies the label recommendations.

6 - Animal Selection, Allocation and Handling

Test animals should be clinically healthy and representative of the age, sex, and class for which the claim of the test anthelmintic is to be made. In general the animals should be 2 to 6 months of age. Animals should be assigned randomly to each treatment. Blocking in replicates by weight, sex, age, and/or exposure to parasites may aid in reducing trial variance. Faecal egg/larval counts are also an adequate method to allocate the experimental animals.

For induced infections, the use of helminth naive animals is recommended. Animals not raised in a helminth-free environment should be treated with an approved anthelmintic drug to remove pre-existing infections followed by faecal examination to determine that the animals are helminth free.

Good husbandry practices should be followed and the animals should be vaccinated according to local practices. This information should be provided in the final report. A minimum seven-day acclimatisation period is recommended. Housing and feed/water supply should be adequate according to the geographical location. Animals should be monitored daily to determine adverse reactions.

B. Specific Evaluation Studies

1 - Dose Determination Studies

2 - Dose Confirmation Studies

A minimum of 2 dose confirmation studies are recommended to support each claim: adult and larvae. For additional descriptions of the procedures refer to EAGR.

3 - Field Effectiveness Studies

4 - Persistent Effectiveness Studies

Two basic study designs have been used to pursue persistent effectiveness claims. One using a single challenge, another using multiple daily challenges following treatment. For consistency of interpretation of results, a standardised study design is recommended using multiple daily challenges, as this most closely mimics what occurs in nature.

The minimum data recommended for a persistent effectiveness claim (for each duration and helminth claim) should include 2 trials (with worm counts) each with a non-treated and one or more treated groups. At least 6 animals in the control group should be adequately infected. Persistent effectiveness claims should only be granted on a species-by-species basis.

In the protocol using multiple daily challenges different groups of animals are treated and exposed to a daily natural or induced challenge for 7, 14, 21 or more days after the treatment. Then at approximately three weeks after the last challenge (or earlier) the animals are examined for parasite burden.

Persistent effectiveness claims should be supported by a minimum 90% effectiveness based on geometric means.